In the Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services by a communications server, comprising the steps of:

determining a state of an Internet Protocol communications device by transmitting a message from a communications module through a Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network to an Internet Protocol communications device to determine if a signaling path to the Internet Protocol communications device exists in the Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network;

determining that the signaling path fails to exist in response to a failure to receive a response to the message from the Internet Protocol communications device; and

reconfiguring call routing information in a database of network routing instructions relating to the Internet Protocol communications device in response to determining that the signaling path fails to exist based upon network-defined logic that specifies alternate routing destinations when any Internet Protocol communications device served by the communications server is not available, so that an incoming call in the Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device is routed to an alternate communications device instead of to the Internet Protocol communications device.

2   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining the state of the Internet Protocol communications device comprises determining whether the Internet Protocol communications device fails to respond to the message transmitted by the communications module.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:

if the Internet Protocol communications device fails to respond to the communication, then reconfiguring the call routing information based upon at least one of i) the network-defined logic and ii) subscriber-defined logic.

4-5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining the state of the Internet Protocol communications device comprises polling the Internet Protocol communications device.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services by a communications server, comprising the steps of:

polling an Internet Protocol communications device to determine if a signaling path exists in a Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network; and

if the signaling path fails to exist, then reconfiguring call routing information in a database of network routing instructions for calls addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device so that an incoming call in the Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device is routed to an alternate communications device instead of to the Internet Protocol communications device based upon at least one of i) network-defined logic that specifies alternate routing destinations when any Internet Protocol communications device served by the communications server is not available and ii) subscriber-defined logic, wherein the call routing information is reconfigured based upon an availability of the Internet Protocol communications device.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services by a communications server, comprising the steps of:

polling an Internet Protocol communications device to determine if a signaling path exists in a Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network; and

if a response is not received within a specified time, then reconfiguring call routing information in a database of network routing instructions for calls addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device so that an incoming call in the Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device is routed to an alternate communications device instead of to the Internet Protocol communications device based upon at least one of 1) the network-defined logic that specifies alternate routing

destinations when any Internet Protocol communications device served by the communications server is not available ~~and ii) the subscriber-defined logic~~, wherein the call routing information is reconfigured based upon an availability of the Internet Protocol communications device.

9.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a Communications Module stored in a memory device, and

a processor communicating with the memory device;

the Communications Module determining a state of an Internet Protocol communications device by transmitting a message from a communications module through a Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network to an Internet Protocol communications device to determine if a signaling path to the Internet Protocol communications device exists in the Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network and reconfiguring call routing information in a database of network routing instructions for calls addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device based upon network-defined logic that specifies alternate routing destinations when any Internet Protocol communications device served by the system is not available so that an incoming call in the Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device is routed to an alternate communications device instead of to the Internet Protocol communications device based upon the state of the Internet Protocol communications device.

10.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture ~~A computer program product~~, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

a Communications Module stored on the computer-readable medium, the Communications Module comprising:

computer-readable program code configured to determine ~~determining~~ a state of an Internet Protocol communications device by transmitting a message from a communications module through a Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network to an Internet Protocol communications device to determine if a signaling path to the Internet Protocol communications device exists in the Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network and

computer-readable program code configured to reconfigure ~~reconfiguring~~ call routing information in a database of network routing instructions for calls addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device based upon network-defined logic that specifies alternate routing destinations when any Internet Protocol communications device served by the communications server is not available so that an incoming call in the Voice-Over Internet Protocol communications network addressed to the Internet Protocol communications device is routed to an alternate communications device instead of to the Internet Protocol communications device based upon the state of the Internet Protocol communications device.